POISON IVY™

3

WILSON
TAKARA
PRIANTO

Happier than ever

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THE BATTLE FOR EARTH IS NOW A WAR FOR THE GALAXY!

DCEASED

WAR OF THE UNDEAD GODS

8 ISSUES
AUGUST

WRITTEN BY
TOM TAYLOR

ART BY
TREVOR HAIRSINE

THE EPIC FINAL CHAPTER OF THE DCEASED FRANCHISE

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Life is perfect. Nothing feels bad.

I don't have to fight to survive. I just float.

YOU'RE DREAMING AGAIN.

GOOD. DON'T WAKE ME UP.

I MISS YOU.

THEN COME BACK.

I CAN'T. I'VE GONE TOO FAR TO TURN BACK NOW.

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO FIX A MISTAKE.

...I WISH THAT WERE *TRUE.*

IT *IS* TRUE. YOU DON'T *HAVE* TO DO THIS. YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO *ANY* OF THIS.

I want to believe that.

I want to forget everything that isn't you.

You taste like the sap that rises in springtime.

But even here, the darkness presses in.

Until the only things left are the things best left behind.

... Maybe I didn't want to.

WHY DID YOU LET HER SEPARATE ME FROM THE GREEN?

TO SAVE YOUR *LIFE.* YOU COULDN'T HAVE *SURVIVED* LIKE THAT.

Right away, I can feel it.

The spores are spreading through my body.

HNNGH--

My healing power is the only reason Ophiocordyceps Lamia hasn't killed me yet.

But I'm just holding back the inevitable.

SOKK

I won't live to see the world that I am creating.

I will die a remnant of the world that came before.

GHH!

Because in the end, I too am human.

SPACK

No better than any of the people I have sent to their deaths.

I try not to be a hypocrite.

And so, I too will pay the price.

But for now, I'm still here.

I have to survive long enough to infect a critical mass of human life.

And to do that, I have to avoid getting caught.

DC COMICS PRESENTS:

POISON IVY

CHAPTER THREE.

Writer
G. WILLOW WILSON

Artist
MARCIO TAKARA

Colors
ARIF PRIANTO

Letters
HASSAN OTSMANE-ELHAOU

Cover
JESSICA FONG

Variant covers
STANLEY "ARTGERM" LAU
JOSHUA MIDDLETON

1:25 Variant cover
JUSTINE FRANY

1:50 Variant cover
SEB McKINNON

Swimsuit variant cover
JOËLLE JONES WITH JORDIE BELLAIRE

Assistant editor
JESSICA BERBEY

Editor
ARIANNA TURTURRO

Group editor
BEN ABERNATHY

HEY THERE! GOOD MORNING! THERE'S COMPLIMENTARY COFFEE IN THE LOBBY IF YOU'RE INTERESTED.

...Which is, as always, easier said than done.

THERE'S A BASKET OF PASTRIES TOO, BUT BETWEEN YOU AND ME, THOSE CROISSANTS HAVE SEEN BETTER DAYS.

YOU DOING SOME YARD WORK?

Oh, YOU HAVE NO IDEA.

I COULD USE AN EXTRA PAIR OF HANDS IF YOU'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING. I'D GIVE YOU A BREAK ON YOUR BILL.

I'm trying to lay low while I make sure I haven't been followed.

(But I do need the money.)

SURE. I'LL HELP.

YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT PLANTS?

You could say that.

!

I THINK ONCE I GET A *SYSTEM* GOING, IT WON'T BE AS BAD AS IT *LOOKS.*

I DON'T KNOW. It might be *worse.*

THINK ABOUT IT! SOME *SHADE TREES,* A COUPLE *PICNIC TABLES,* SOME NICE *FLOWERS--*

--IT COULD BE A LITTLE *GARDEN OF EDEN* RIGHT HERE IN BLASTED CREEK, MONTANA.

"EDEN. I HAD AN EDEN OF MY OWN ONCE.

"IT'S GONE NOW."

IT DIDN'T HAVE TO END LIKE THIS!

YOU OKAY?

YEAH. I WILL BE. JUST TOO MANY DAYS ON THE ROAD.

I have to get a handle on myself. I'm no good to the Green if I can't trust my senses.

I'M CARRIE, BY THE WAY.

WHAT'D YOU SAY YOUR NAME WAS?

JUST PAM.

YOU GET INTO A FIGHT WITH A CAT, PAM?

Oh, I--

I WAS CLEARING A BUNCH OF **BRUSH** YESTERDAY. GOT REALLY **SCRAPED UP.**

I COULD **TELL** YOU WORK **OUTDOORS.** PERFECT.

LET'S GET TO WORK!

*It feels **good** to do something **physical.***

*To clear out a **different** kind of **invasive species.***

*I can **feel** this tiny patch of earth **waking up** as we work.*

And for a few hours, I forget why I'm really here.

The world shrinks into this little patch of land.

You could almost convince yourself that all it would take to heal the planet is a little yard work.

WELL, YOU WERE RIGHT.
I USUALLY AM.
SEE? NOW IT'S A BLANK CANVAS.
I'M THINKING SOME GRASS, SOME TULIPS OR SOMETHING--

CAN I MAKE A *SUGGESTION?*

SURE.

THE SOIL HERE IS *EXHAUSTED.*

IF YOU PLANT NATIVE *PRAIRIE GRASS* INSTEAD OF SOD, IT'LL PUT DOWN DEEPER *ROOTS*-- FIX THE *SOIL*, USE LESS *WATER*--

NATIVE FLOWERS WILL BRING BACK THE *BIRDS* AND *INSECTS* AND BLOOM FOR *MONTHS.*

...

WELL, WHAT ARE YOU *WAITING* FOR?

LET'S HIT THE *GARDEN STORE.*

I know, I know.

I spend a lot of time contemplating **murder.**

But what I **really** *love is* **buying plants.**

VROOM

SHOULDN'T WE WAIT UNTIL *MORNING?*

Nah. EVENING IS THE *PERFECT* TIME TO PUT STUFF IN THE GROUND.

LESS STRESS ON THE *PLANTS.*

WISH I HAD YOUR *YOUNG LEGS.* I'M *COMPLETELY* TUCKERED OUT.

YOU GO *REST.* I'LL JUST GET THIS GUY *SITUATED.*

CLUNK

Hello, little friend.

I'm suspicious of people who try to sell you **hope.**

Hope, when the desired outcome **fails** to occur, becomes **despair.**

You **know** you can't save **all** the trees, so you don't plant **any.**

But what if it's still **worth** it to plant that **one tree?**

Just that **one.**

Even if it doesn't **fix** the problem, you know you did **your** part.

It's **not** hope, because you know you're still going to **fail.** It's... **something else.**

Maybe it's **faith.**

Faith is what **persists** when **hope** is **gone.**

Which is why, even here at the edge of the **apocalypse**, it **still** feels better to **nurture** life...

...than to destroy it.

WERE YOU OUT HERE ALL NIGHT?!

I MUST HAVE GOTTEN CARRIED AWAY.

I'D SAY SO!

THESE GUYS LOOK LIKE THEY'VE BEEN GROWING HERE FOR YEARS!

FORGET A BREAK ON YOUR *BILL*, I THINK I *OWE* YOU NOW

NO! DON'T TOUCH ME!

This is how it starts. As a reflex.

A desire not to hurt someone I've come to like.

SORRY. Just trying to lend a *hand.*

IT'S NOT *YOU*, IT'S--

It's too early to make exceptions.

--I DON'T WANT TO GET *DIRT* ALL OVER YOU.

WELL. *SUIT YOUR-SELF.*

Yet somehow, that's exactly what I find myself doing.

LATER.

--OUTBREAK OF A STRANGE **FUNGUS** IN SEVERAL PARTS OF THE MOUNTAIN WEST.

BREAKING NEWS
OUTBREAKS WORRY HEALTH OFFICIALS

WHILE IT IS **UNCLEAR** HOW THESE OUTBREAKS ARE **CONNECTED**, OFFICIALS CLAIM THERE IS STILL **NO THREAT** TO THE **GENERAL PUBLIC.**

BREAKING NEWS
OUTBREAKS WORRY HEALTH OFFICIALS

FUNGI ARE IN THE **SOIL** ALL **AROUND** US. IT'S **RARE** THAT THEY CAUSE ANY **PROBLEMS.**

BUT SOMETIMES, IT **HAPPENS.**

AND WHEN IT **DOES**, IT CAN GET **REALLY BAD** BEFORE IT GETS **BETTER.**

SKTCH SKTCH

The darkness moves...

A warning that I too need to get moving.

...ARE YOU THE ONE WHO'S BEEN FOLLOWING ME?

...Jason?

AAHGH

GRAHH!

NO!

It smells like new grass. It feels like new shoots writing up out of wintry ground.

Ugh--!

SLSH

But just like that...

...it's gone.

FSH

Just a pile of brush and yard waste.

Is that all it was?

What the hell?

Did I make it up?

I'm not staying long enough to find out.

But I'm still haunted by the idea--

--what if I did?

What if I made it all up? Not just the assassin--

--what if I painted that rune on the side of the diner three towns ago?

What if I'm being outsmarted by my own pathogen?

IDAHO. THE NEXT MORNING.

I drive all night.

As soon as I pull over, I write to you.

These...visions... make me wonder how much longer I'll be lucid.

TAP TAP TAP

I want you to have a record of what happened. Before I'm too far gone to write one.

CREEAK

A record of the last days of the human race.

CAN I HELP YOU?

I'M HERE ABOUT A JOB POSTING I FOUND ONLINE.

YOU WANT MR. HALLORAN. DOWN THE HALL ON THE LEFT. TAKE AN APPLICATION WITH YOU.

It's going to be messy.

DON'T GO IN THERE.

HE'S A MONSTER.

It's already more... complicated than I thought it was going to be.

Thanks to the realization that though we are all guilty...

George Halloran
Employee Efficiency Expert

...some of us are more guilty than others.

MONTANA.
THAT SAME MORNING.

More than anything else, I don't want you to think this whole thing is about death.

It's not. It's about cultivating life.

Life on a scale we can barely imagine.

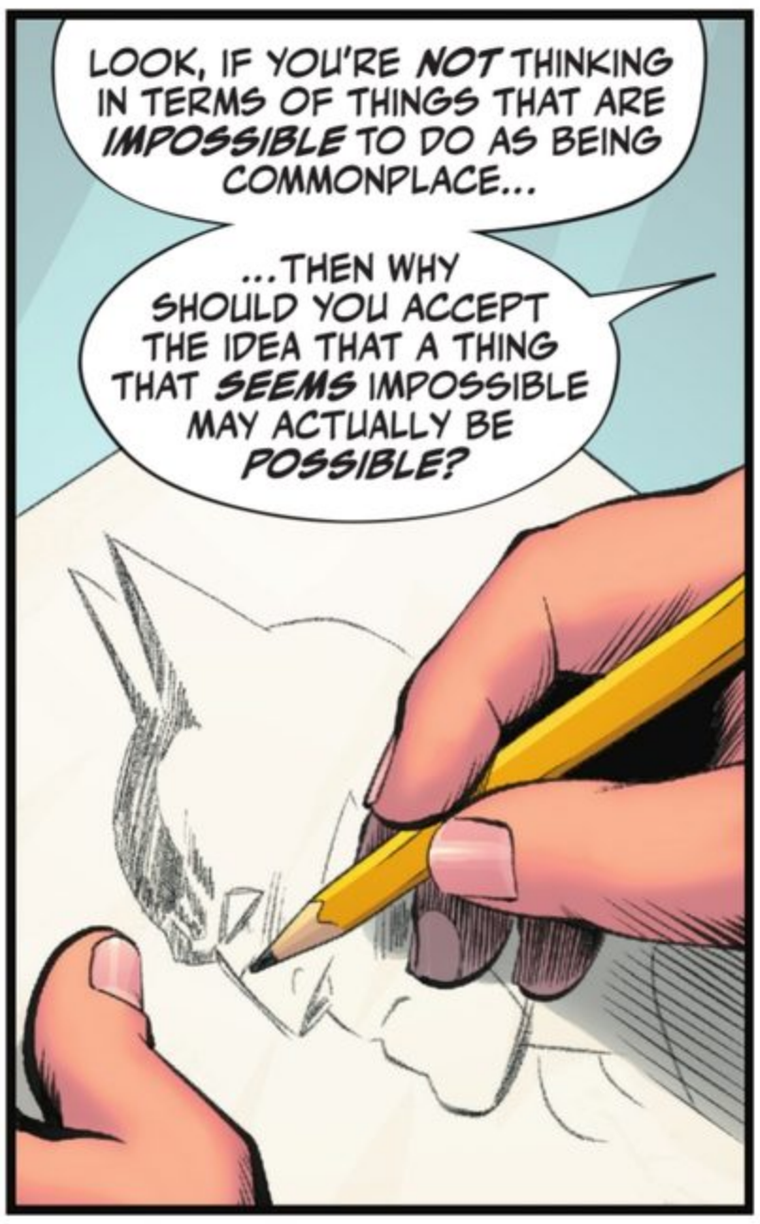
MONTANA IS FOR LOVERS

Vibrant and blooming and eternal.

NEXT: HORRIBLE BOSSES

"While he was with us, Neal was often referred to as a living legend. Let's all take solace from the knowledge the legend will live on."

–Cary Bates


LOOK, IF YOU'RE *NOT* THINKING IN TERMS OF THINGS THAT ARE *IMPOSSIBLE* TO DO AS BEING COMMONPLACE...
...THEN WHY SHOULD YOU ACCEPT THE IDEA THAT A THING THAT *SEEMS* IMPOSSIBLE MAY ACTUALLY BE *POSSIBLE?*

"Neal was like a father to me on so many levels...Neal, and that whole experience, taught me so much about comics, drawing--life, really. I owe him and the family a debt that can never be repaid."

–Denys Cowan

SIR, I JUST WANTED--
AFTER *ALL,* ALL NEW IDEAS SPRING FROM ONE MIND, ARE DISAGREED WITH BY *EVERYBODY* ELSE, AND ARE *FINALLY* ACCEPTED BY EVERYBODY WITH *THIS* STATEMENT...
"HOW COULD WE POSSIBLY *HAVE* THOUGHT IT WAS ANY *DIFFERENT?"*

"Neal was a true creator's rights warrior. He had the power and the ability to bring notice and to cause change, and he wielded both with the same massive skills he used as a storyteller. He's not just a legend, he's one of the most important people in the history of the comics medium."

–Mike Gold

IT'S JUST YOU--
FOR AN INDIVIDUAL TO THINK *THAT* WAY, HE HAS TO HAVE *EXERCISE.*
YOU'RE NOT JUST GOING TO *SUDDENLY* COME UP WITH A TOTALLY *NEW* IDEA AND THEN DEFEND IT WITH YOUR *LIFE.*

"All of you who had their artwork returned or collected an incentive or royalty since the '80s should have sent Neal Adams a thank-you card at the very least. He fought long and hard for what many take for granted these days."

–Larry Hama

YOU HAVE TO HAVE *OTHER* PEOPLE CREATING AND *ASSURING* YOU THAT IT'S *OKAY.*
OTHER PEOPLE *MUCKING* WITH CONCEPTS THAT *SEEM* CRAZY, BUT ARE *DEFENDABLE* ON A CERTAIN LEVEL.
IN ORDER FOR *YOU* TO EXERCISE *YOUR* IMAGINATION.

"Neal Adams drew like a Renaissance master...but Neal's impact goes well beyond his art. His fight for Siegel and Shuster was a watershed act that put the value of creators front and center so that no artist's rights could ever be ignored."

–Jenette Kahn

THE EXERCISE OF THE IMAGINATION IS A DIFFICULT THING TO DESCRIBE BECAUSE IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A REAL THING.
HOW DO YOU EXERCISE IMAGINATION?

"Neal changed the game. He made himself a bridge between generations. He forced the industry to pay tribute to his elders and taught my generation to respect ourselves."

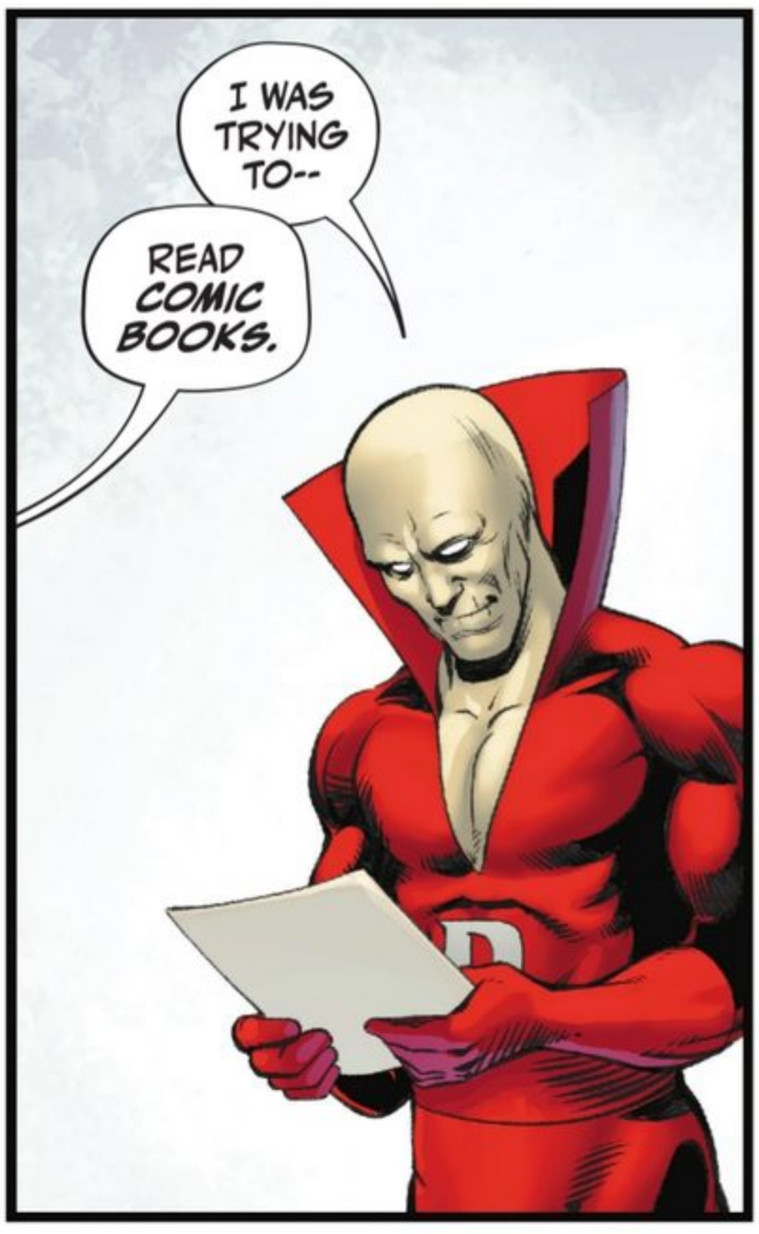
–Frank Miller

"With his approach to dynamic representationalism, Neal could do it all--draw powerful action scenes and relatively quiet shots that made you soak in every detail. He left us a huge body of inspirational work to appreciate and learn from."

–Carl Potts

"Neal Adams was--is--quite simply one of the most talented and most influential artists in the history of the comic book industry."

–Roy Thomas



"No artist ever mattered more to DC than Neal Adams: he revitalized key characters, set stylistic and storytelling models, introduced a bevy of brilliant young talents to our pages, argued with us as our conscience, and drew some of the most iconic images of the 20th century."

–Paul Levitz

"Let others expound on Neal's exquisite artwork--my mind turns back to these fond memories of working with Neal."

–Terry Austin

"I will always be grateful for the dramatic way Neal improved life for my family. He was a great man."

–Laura Siegel Larson

"I'd think, 'How can I mess up the inks in just the right way so Neal and I will be able to talk for a few more hours?' In fairness, he also called when he really liked something too. Gonna miss those talks."

–Bill Sienkiewicz

"Neal taught me more than how to master nuances of gesture and expression--or how to stand up for myself. He showed me how to stand up and speak out for the causes I believe in."

–Jon Bogdanove

"Neal's work has influenced every image I have created and continues to be the gold standard I aspire to when I put pencil to paper."

–Jim Lee

"Neal Adams is...a force majeure that few can equal and that history will remember. His work here is done."

–Michael Golden

The Endless Line

WRITTEN BY *TOM KING* • DRAWN BY *JOSH ADAMS*
COLORED BY *HI-FI* • LETTERED BY *CLAYTON COWLES*
EDITED BY *BRITTANY HOLZHERR*

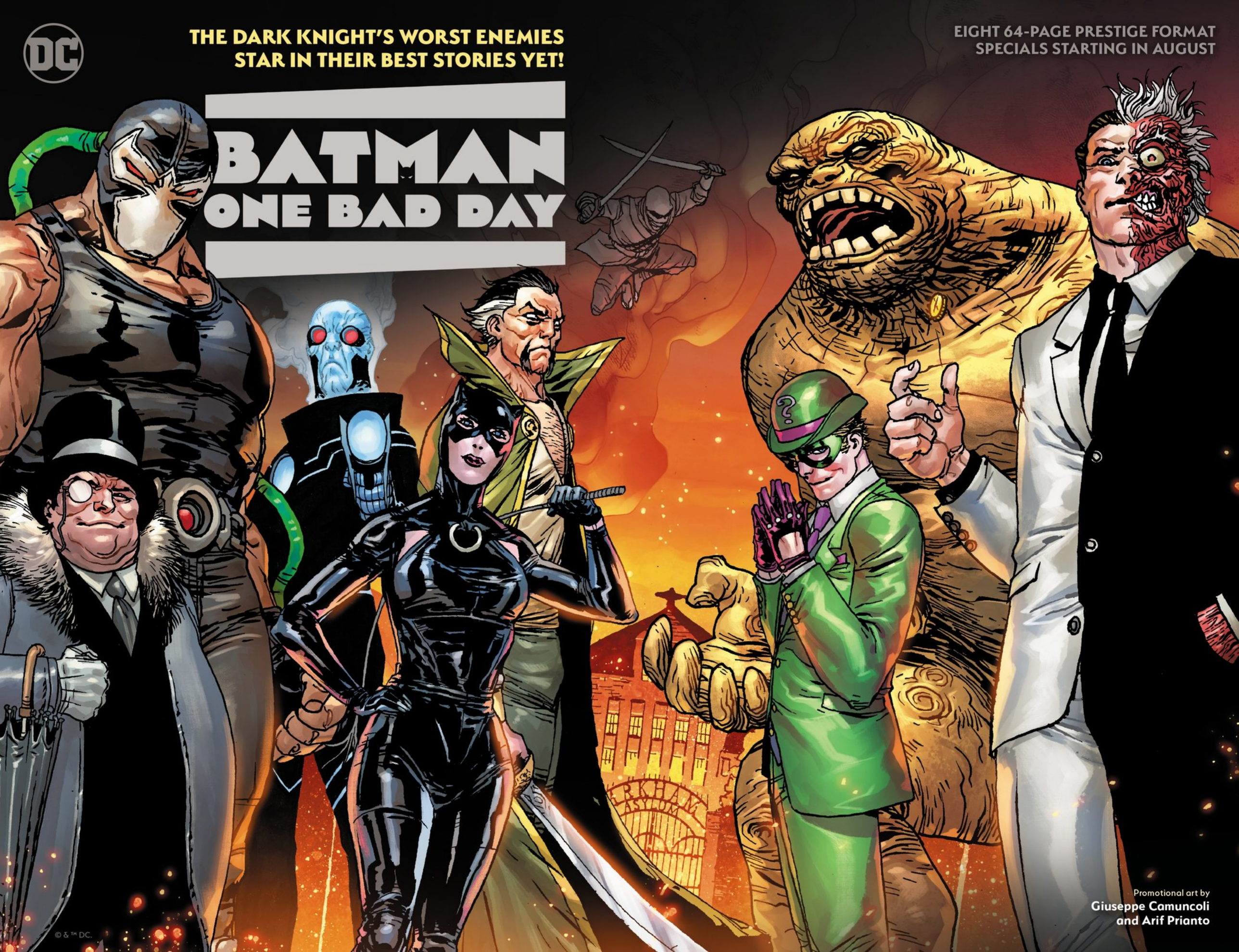
NEAL ADAMS'S DIALOGUE QUOTED FROM *THE COMICS JOURNAL* #72, MAY 1982.

FOR MORE QUOTES REMEMBERING NEAL, PLEASE VISIT WWW.DCCOMICS.COM/REMEMBERINGNEALADAMS

THE DARK KNIGHT'S WORST ENEMIES
STAR IN THEIR BEST STORIES YET!

BATMAN
ONE BAD DAY

EIGHT 64-PAGE PRESTIGE FORMAT
SPECIALS STARTING IN AUGUST



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Promotional art by
Giuseppe Camuncoli
and Arif Prianto

COMICS' TOP TALENTS TELL DEFINITIVE TALES OF THE GREATEST ROGUES GALLERY IN POP CULTURE

Batman - One Bad Day: The Riddler
Tom King
Mitch Gerads
AUGUST

Batman - One Bad Day: Two-Face
Mariko Tamaki
Javier Fernandez
SEPTEMBER

Batman - One Bad Day: Penguin
John Ridley
Giuseppe Camuncoli
OCTOBER

Batman - One Bad Day: Mr. Freeze
Gerry Duggan
Matteo Scalera
NOVEMBER

BATMAN
ONE BAD DAY

Batman - One Bad Day: Catwoman
G. Willow Wilson
Jamie McKelvie
DECEMBER

Batman - One Bad Day: Bane
Joshua Williamson
Howard Porter
JANUARY

Batman - One Bad Day: Clayface
Collin Kelly & Jackson Lanzing
Xermánico
FEBRUARY

Batman - One Bad Day: Ra's al Ghul
Tom Taylor
Ivan Reis
MARCH

DC NATION INTERVIEW

DCEASED: WAR OF THE UNDEAD GODS

INTERVIEW WITH TOM TAYLOR AND TREVOR HAIRSINE

The twisted minds behind the *DCeased* universe give readers a look into the cosmic horror of the final chapter of the bestselling series, *DCeased: War of the Undead Gods*.

WHAT SHOULD READERS EXPECT FROM THIS FINAL CHAPTER OF *DCEASED*?

Tom Taylor: In *DCeased*, an undead anti-life virus took the entire Earth and we lost so many superheroes. In *DCeased: Dead Planet* the remaining heroes came together to find a cure... and now we get to the next point.

We're going to see that unliving Darkseid has infected all the New Gods, and now we have a war against the undead gods across the cosmos. There are so many things we've hinted at in the *DCeased* universe, and we're finally fulfilling those promises in *DCeased: War of the Undead Gods*.

WHAT NEW CHARACTERS CAN FANS EXPECT TO SEE IN THIS FINAL CHAPTER?

Taylor: We are reaching far, and obviously there are so many cosmic characters involved. Brainiac will be a player and we'll probably see the likes of Sinestro, the Green Lanterns, Lobo, and the New Gods. Guy Gardner will also show up, who is a character I've always enjoyed writing, and he gets some of the best lines.

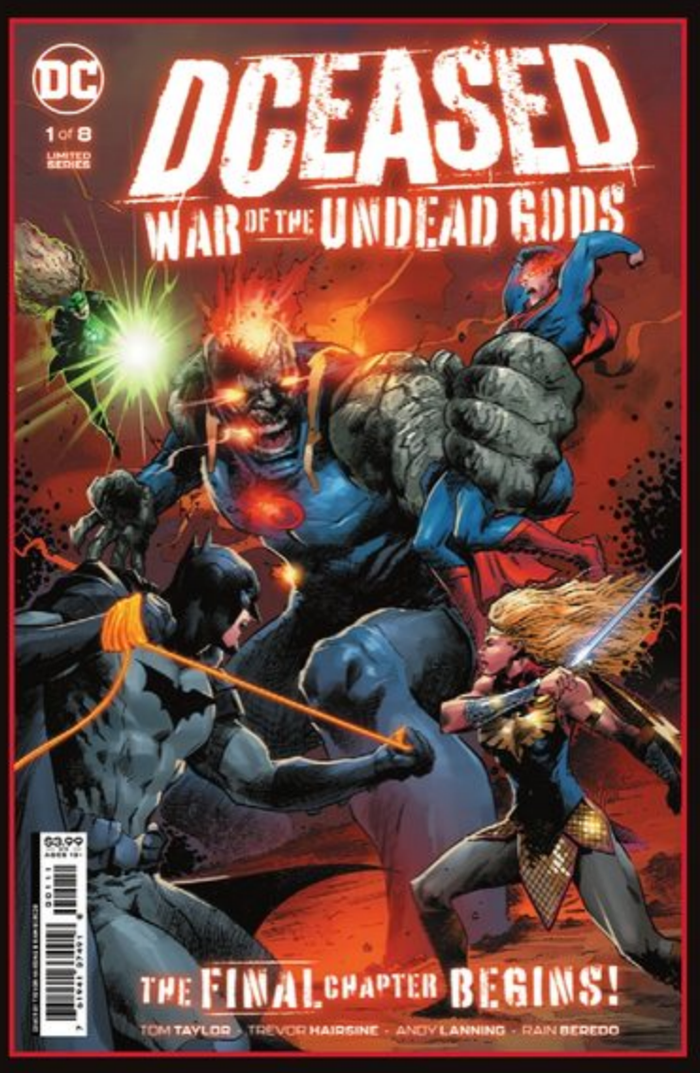
Trevor Hairsine: We'll see Supergirl and her origin story. You've seen that story many times before...but this one goes really badly wrong.

BUT TOM AND TREVOR, OUR FAVORITE DC CHARACTERS ARE GOING TO BE SAFE IN THIS FINAL CHAPTER THOUGH...RIGHT?

Taylor: Part of the excitement of the series is that no one is safe. You never know when you turn the pages of a *DCeased* book if your favorite character is still going to be there. Just like the rest of *DCeased*, this series will basically have a big shock at the end of every issue.

Hairsine: You just don't know what's going to happen! For me, I like to draw page by page as I read to get that sense of surprise. I'm always going, "Oh wow. That's happening!" I hope a little bit of that excitement comes through on the page.

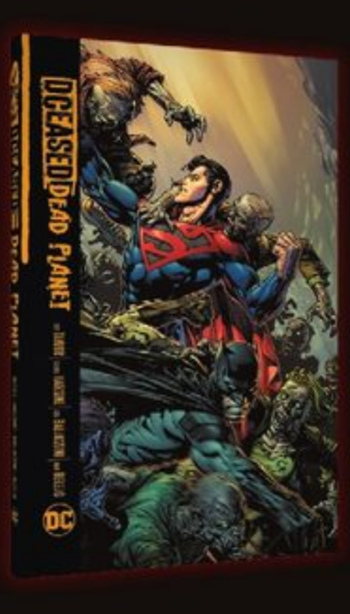
DON'T MISS DCEASED: WAR OF THE UNDEAD GODS #1, ON SALE IN AUGUST!



CATCH UP WITH THESE GRAPHIC NOVELS

DCEASED

DCEASED: UNKILLABLES



DCEASED: DEAD PLANET

DCEASED: HOPE AT WORLD'S END

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SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"